

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

1.-14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A system for remotely servicing medical diagnostic equipment, the system comprising:

a first medical diagnostic station of a first modality, the first medical diagnostic station including a service server for accessing data representative of a serviceable operational condition of the first station;

a second medical diagnostic station of a second modality different from the first modality, the second medical diagnostic station including a service server for accessing data representative of a serviceable operational condition of the second station;

a service facility remote from the first and second stations, the service facility including a server for interactively exchanging operational service data with the first and second stations.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the first and second modalities are selected from a group consisting of magnetic resonance imaging systems, computed tomography systems, x-ray systems and ultrasound systems.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the first and second stations each include an operator interface for initiating a service request for operational servicing of the respective station and a communications circuit for transmitting the service request to the service facility.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the service facility server is configured to transmit an acknowledgment message to the first or the second station in response to the service request from the respective station.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the service facility server is configured to prompt data representative of a serviceable operational condition in response to the service request from the first or the second station, and wherein the first and the second stations are configured to transmit the data representative of the serviceable operational condition in response to the prompt.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the serviceable operational condition includes an operational malfunction in an imaging sequence in the first or the second station.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the serviceable operational condition includes a request for operator useable information.

22.-35. (canceled).

36. (previously presented) A method for servicing a plurality of medical diagnostic systems, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a first service request message in a first diagnostic system of a first modality for operational servicing of the first diagnostic system;

generating a second service request message in a second diagnostic system of a second modality different from the first modality for operational servicing of the second diagnostic system;

transmitting the first and second service request messages to a service facility remote from the first and the second diagnostic systems; and

transmitting acknowledgment messages from the service facility to the first and second diagnostic system in response to the first and second service request messages.

37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the first and second modalities are selected from a group including magnetic resonance imaging systems, computed tomography imaging systems, x-ray imaging systems and ultrasound imaging systems.

38. (original) The method of claim 36, including the further step of displaying operator perceptible indicia at the first and second diagnostic systems indicating receipt of the acknowledgment messages.

39. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the first and second service request messages include data uniquely identifying the respective diagnostic system.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, comprising the further steps of:

establishing a network link between the service facility and the first and second diagnostic systems; and

transmitting operational parameter data from the first and second diagnostic systems to the service facility, the operational parameter data including information indicative of a serviceable operational condition.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, comprising the further steps of:

establishing a network link between the service facility and the first and second diagnostic systems, and

transmitting operational service data from the service facility to the first and second diagnostic systems in response to the first and second service request messages.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the operational service data includes configuration parameter data for the respective diagnostic system.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the operational service data includes operator instructions adapted to the respective modality of the respective diagnostic system.

44. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the service facility includes a plurality of service facilities disposed at locations remote from one another.